

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an automotive vehicle and a trailer comprising:

determining a presence of the trailer; and

applying brake-steer to the vehicle in response to the presence of the trailer by applying at least one brake at a first vehicle wheel to reduce a vehicle turning radius of the vehicle and trailer.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising generating a reverse direction signal of the vehicle and applying brake-steer in response to the reverse direction signal.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating the reverse direction signal from a shift lever.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating the reverse direction from a push button.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating the reverse direction from a transmission controller.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating the reverse direction from a wheel speed sensor relative to a first wheel.

7-8. (Cancel)

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein applying brake-steer comprises applying a trailer brake and a vehicle brake.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a hitch sensor.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of the trailer comprises determining the presence of the trailer with a reverse aid sensor.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of the trailer comprises determining the presence of the trailer with an ultrasonic sensor.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of the trailer comprises determining the presence of the trailer with a camera.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of the trailer comprises determining the presence of the trailer with a harness current.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining a presence of the trailer comprises determining the presence of the trailer with a manually activated mechanism.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling an automotive vehicle and a trailer comprising:

determining a presence of a trailer; and

applying at least one trailer brake and at least one vehicle brake to brake-steer the vehicle and trailer in response to the presence of the trailer to reduce a vehicle turning radius of the vehicle and trailer.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising generating a reverse direction signal of the vehicle and applying brake-steer in response to the reverse direction signal.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction signal from a shift lever.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a push button.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a transmission controller.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein generating a reverse direction signal comprises generating a reverse direction from a wheel speed sensor relative to a first wheel.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a hitch sensor.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a reverse aid sensor.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with an ultrasonic sensor.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a camera.

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a harness current.

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein determining a presence of a trailer comprises determining the presence of a trailer with a manually activated mechanism.

29. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising determining a position of the trailer and applying at least one trailer brake and at least one vehicle brake in response to the position.

30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein applying brake-steer to the vehicle in response to the trailer to enhance control of the trailer relative to the vehicle comprises applying brake-steer to reduce the turning radius of the vehicle.

31. (Currently Amended) A control system for an automotive vehicle and a trailer having a brake comprising:

means to determining the presence of a trailer;

a controller coupled to the means, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer to the vehicle and the trailer brakes to reduce the turning radius of the vehicle and trailer in response to the presence of the trailer.

32. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said means to determine the presence of a trailer comprises a hitch sensor.

33. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said means to determine the presence of a trailer comprises a reverse aid sensor.

34. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said means to determine the presence of a trailer comprises an ultrasonic sensor.

35. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said means to determine the presence of a trailer comprises a camera.

36. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said controller is programmed to apply brake-steer by applying a first brake and a second brake to reduce the turning radius of the vehicle.

37. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said controller is programmed to apply brake-steer by applying at least one brake at a first wheel to reduce a vehicle turning radius.

38. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 wherein said controller is programmed to brake-steer by applying an increased drive torque to a second wheel relative to the first wheel.

39. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 31 further comprising a steering wheel angle sensor generating a steering wheel angle signal, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer in response to a reverse direction signal and the steering wheel angle signal.

40. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 31 further comprising a yaw rate sensor generating a yaw rate signal, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer in response to a reverse direction signal and yaw rate signal.

41. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 31 further comprising a steering wheel torque sensor generating a steering torque signal, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer in response to a reverse direction signal and steering torque signal.

42. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 31 further comprising a steering wheel angle sensor generating a steering wheel angle signal and a vehicle velocity sensor generating a vehicle velocity signal, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer in response to a reverse direction signal, steering wheel angle and vehicle velocity signal.

43. (Original) A system as recited in claim 31 further comprising means to determine a trailer position, said controller programmed to apply brake-steer in response to the trailer position.